

Legislative Bulletin.....October 21, 2009

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S. 1793 — Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Extension Act of 2009 (Pallone, D-NJ)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, October 21, 2009, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: S. 1793 would reauthorize (retroactive to September 30, 2009) through FY 2013, the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency (CARE) Act, which funds domestic treatment and support services for individuals with HIV/AIDS. The current Continuing Resolution extends the authority for the Ryan White program through October 31, 2009.

Most Ryan White funding is distributed to eligible entities based on formulas that take into account living cases of HIV/AIDS. The Ryan White program consists of 5 major parts:

- Part A provides grants to urban areas and mid-sized cities;

- Part B provides grants to states and territories; it also provides funds for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP);
- Part C provides early intervention grants to public and private nonprofit entities;
- Part D provides grants to public and private nonprofit entities for family-centered care for women, infants, children, and youth with HIV/AIDS; and
- Part F includes the AIDS Dental Reimbursement (ADR) Program, the AIDS Education and Training Centers (AETCs), the Special Projects of National Significance (SPNS) Program, and the Minority AIDS Initiative (MAI).

The specific provisions of the bill are as follows, summarized by Section.

Section 2: Reauthorization of HIV Health Care Services Program

Authorizes a 5% increase in authorization levels for Parts A through D and F for each of fiscal years 2010 through 2013, and repeals all prior sunset provisions. Specifically, the bill authorizes the following total amounts:

Ryan White Program Parts	FY2010 Authorization	FY2011 Authorization	FY2012 Authorization	FY2013 Authorization
Part A	\$682	\$716	\$751.9	\$789.5
Part B	\$1,349.5	\$1,417	\$1,487.8	\$1,562.2
Part C	\$246.9	\$259.2	\$272.2	\$285.8
Part D	\$75.4	\$79.2	\$83.1	\$87.2
Part F: AETCs	\$36.4	\$38.3	\$40.2	\$42.2
Part F: Dental	\$13.7	\$14.3	\$15	\$15.8
Part F: MAI	\$146.1	\$153.4	\$161	\$169.1
Total	\$2,550	\$2,677	\$2,811	\$2,952

Minority AIDS Initiative (MAI): MAI funding is currently distributed under Parts A through D and F, with Part A and B funds distributed competitively. The bill will change current law to revert back to formula funding under Part A and B and require a GAO report across Department agencies on MAI activities including best practices in capacity-building, and an HHS report on a “Departmental plan for using the funding in all agencies to build capacity” taking into consideration the GAO report. The bill requires the Secretary to synchronize and incorporate the schedule of application submissions and funding available under MIA.

Section 3: Extended Exemption Period For Names-Based

Current Law provides that grant funding for states and metropolitan areas is based on the total number of those living with HIV/AIDS. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) collects the surveillance data used in the Ryan White formula. Starting in 1999, it recommended all states move from the code-based system (used originally to protect privacy) to a name-based system to avoid double counting. The 2006 reauthorization provided for a transition period for states to implement a fully name-based reporting system. States that continued to submit HIV code-based data received a 5% penalty (to account for double counting) and were capped at a 5% increase in case count for the following year. Currently, every state collects some name-based data but

because the systems were implemented and evolved at different rates, there are varying levels of maturity and accuracy in the name-based reporting system.

S. 1793 maintains the transition periods and penalties for FY2010 and 2011 but increases the penalty to 6% in 2012. Starting in 2013 all states would be required to report cases using the name-based system.

Section 4: Extension of Transitional Grant Areas Status

The 2006 reauthorization split Part A funding into Eligible Metropolitan Areas (EMAs) and Transitional Grant Areas (TGAs). These grants are awarded to EMAs for emergency relief for individuals living with HIV/AIDS. EMA is defined as 50,000 or more people in the region with 2,000 or more cumulative AIDS cases reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in the last five years. An EMA loses its status if it fails for 3 years to have at least 2,000 cases over the last 5 calendar years and fails for 3 years to have a total of 3,000 living cases of AIDS as of the last day of the most recent year.

TGA is defined as area for which there has been reported to and confirmed by CDC, a cumulative total of at least 1,000, but fewer than 2,000, cases of AIDS during the most recent period of five calendar years for which the data is available. A TGA loses its status if it fails for 3 years to have at least 1,000 (but less than 2,000) cases over the last 5 calendar years, and fails for 3 years to have a total of 1,500 living cases of AIDS as of the last day of the most recent year.

S. 1793 maintains the current initial eligibility for a metropolitan area to qualify as EMA and extends the rules for TGA status in order to receive Ryan White, Title I, Part A grants. Current law dictates that TGAs that fail for 3 years to meet the eligibility criteria lose both formula funding and an additional \$500,000 that is reallocated to Part B to be redistributed to states. However the bill adds a provision that allows metropolitan areas with 1,400-1,500 cumulative living AIDS cases with less than 5% of total grants unobligated to be considered as having met the criteria to maintain its TGA status. The bill further provides that the state wherein the TGA lies will retain 75% of the TGA formula funding in the first year that the TGA loses its status, 50% the second, 25% the third and all of the former funding will go into the Part B pool in the 4th year.

Section 5: Hold Harmless

Currently, 2/3 of Part A funding is distributed through the formula grant, and the remaining 1/3 is for discretionary supplemental grants distributed based on need. Part B supplemental funds come from a variety of sources and can vary annually. Due to this fluctuation, there is a “hold harmless” provision to protect EMAs and states. This bill maintains the “hold harmless” provision for both Parts A and B at a rate of 95% of FY2009 funding in 2010, 100% of FY2010 funding for FY2011-2012, and 92.5% of FY2012 funding for FY2013.

Section 6: Amendments to the General Grant Provisions

The bill adds provisions to promote early identification of individuals infected with HIV. Specifically, the legislation adds a requirement that the Administration and Planning

Council develop a strategy, in coordination with other community efforts, to identify those with HIV/AIDS who are unaware of their status and connect them to health and support services. The bill further provides that 1/3 of the criteria on which competitive supplemental Part A grants area allocated shall be made based on “demonstrated success in identifying individuals with HIV/AIDS,” making them aware of their status and connecting them to appropriate care.

Section 7: Increase in Adjustment for Names-Based Reporting

The bill adds a 3% adjustment based on living HIV/AIDS cases (for the most recent year) to Part A and Part B grants for areas that switched to name-bases reporting in 2007 and received a decrease in funding of at least 30% from 2006 due to determinations based on the new reporting system.

Section 8: Treatment of Unobligated Funds

Under current law, rules for unobligated funds under Part A and B fall into two categories: Formula funding, and Supplemental funding. For formula funding, if a grantee has unobligated dollars remaining it can request a waiver to carry over and use all the finding the next year. If the waiver isn’t granted or all the funds are not spent the next year all the money is returned to the secretary to be used for supplemental grants. Regardless of receiving a waiver, if a grantee has an unobligated balance above 2% of the total award, future funding will be reduced by the unobligated balance and that area will not eligible for supplemental funding the following year. For supplemental funding, if a grantee has unobligated funding remaining the money is returned to the Secretary to be redistributed.

S. 1793 increases the penalty threshold from 2% to 5%. For formula funding, an area with unobligated funding above the 5% threshold the following year will still not be eligible for supplemental funding, and its formula amount will be reduced by the unobligated amount, but will not include any amount that was approved via waiver to carryover to the next year.

Section 9: Application by States

The bill adds a provision that requires states to develop a comprehensive plan to identify and provide access to treatment for individuals who are unaware of their HIV/AIDS status using data collected from Part A grantees.

Section 10: ADAP Rebate Funds

Many states purchase ADAP drugs directly from manufacturers in order to receive a rebate, which in turn must be put back into the program and spend first before grant dollars. However, these rebates are given at varying times through the year thus interfering with unobligated funds.

S. 1793 seeks to remedy this problem by allowing the Secretary to reduce the state’s unobligated balance by the ADAP rebate amount if the rebate would trigger a penalty or higher penalty than would have otherwise applied. The bill provides that any unobligated ADAP amount that is returned to the Secretary must first be used for the ADAP

supplemental program (if the Secretary determines appropriate) and then to the general Part B Supplemental fund.

Section 11: Applications to Primary Care Services

According to CRS, Part D (Title IV of the Ryan White CARE Act) originally authorized several different HIV-related programs. However, only one (pediatric demonstration grants) was actually funded through the appropriations process. In the 1996 Ryan White reauthorization the pediatric program was replaced with grants to public and nonprofit entities for services for women, infants, children, and youth and enhanced research in this area. Services provided include outpatient healthcare, case management, referrals, and other assistance to foster participation in the program. The 2006 reauthorization limited to 10%, funds that may be used for administrative expenses.

The bill clarifies that Part D grants should be the payer of last resort and adds a memorandum of understanding as a vehicle for Part D providers in order to ensure access to primary care.

Section 12: National HIV/AIDS Testing Goal

The bill adds a provision that requires the Secretary to establish a National HIV/AIDS testing goal of 5 million tests annually through federally supported prevention, treatment and care programs. The Secretary will be required to report annually to Congress on the progress towards meeting the goal, total number of people who were tested, made aware of their status, and referred to treatment and care as well as barriers to, and money needed, to meet the testing goals. The Secretary will also review the various programs effectiveness based on their stated goals and contribution toward the testing goals.

Section 13: Notification of Possible Exposure to Infection Disease

The bill adds back a provision that was removed in the 2006 reauthorization (sometimes referred to as Part E) that would require emergency responders be notified if they are in contact with a victim of an emergency who has a communicable infectious disease while still complying with confidentiality requirements.

Committee Action: The Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions approved, by voice vote, a draft Ryan White reauthorization bill on September 30, 2009. S. 1793 was introduced on October 15 and passed the Senate by Unanimous Consent on October 19, 2009. The House reported their identical version, H.R. 3792, out of the Committee on Energy and Commerce on October 15, 2009 by voice vote.

Cost to Taxpayers: S. 1793 would authorize the appropriation of about \$2.55 billion for fiscal year 2010, and nearly \$11 billion over the 2010-2013 period.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: Yes. According to CBO the bill would impose intergovernmental

and private-sector mandates as it would require public and private medical facilities to comply with new processes for notifying emergency responders of exposure to infectious disease. CBO estimated the costs for 2009 and would fall below the thresholds established in Unfunded Mandate Reform Act (UMRA) for intergovernmental and private-sector mandates (\$69 million and \$139 million).

Constitutional Authority: There is no committee report citing constitutional authority available. House Rule XIII, Section 3(d)(1), requires that all committee reports contain “a statement citing the *specific* powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the law proposed by the bill or joint resolution” (*emphasis added*).

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H.Res. 811 - Expressing support for designation of October 2009 as "National Principals Month" (Davis, D-CA)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, October 21, 2009, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.Res. 811 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “Honors and recognizes the contribution of school principals to the success of students in our Nation's elementary and secondary schools; and
- “Encourages the people of the United States to observe ‘National Principals Month’ with appropriate ceremonies and activities that promote awareness of school leadership in ensuring that every child has access to a high-quality education.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “School leaders are expected to be educational visionaries, instructional leaders, assessment experts, disciplinarians, community builders, public relations experts, budget analysts, facility managers, special programs administrators, and guardians of various legal, contractual, and policy mandates and initiatives as well as being entrusted with our young people, our most valuable resource;
- “The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that approximately 1 in 3 principals works more than 40 hours a week and often works an additional 15-20 hours each week supervising school activities at night and on weekends;
- “The celebration of ‘National Principals Month’ would honor elementary, middle level, and high school principals and recognize the importance of school leadership in ensuring that every child has access to a high-quality education; and
- “The month of October 2009 would be an appropriate month to designate as ‘National Principals Month’.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 811 was introduced on October 7, 2009, and referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor, which took no public action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditures.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: A committee reporting citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. However, the resolution does not contain any earmarks.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

RSC Staff Contact: Curtis Rhyne, Curtis.Rhyne@mail.house.gov (202) 226-8576

H.Res. 837 - Recognizing Kentucky Wesleyan College for their service as an institution of higher education for over 150 years (Guthrie, R-KY)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, October 21, 2009, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.Res. 837 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “Recognizes Kentucky Wesleyan College for over 150 years of service as an institution of higher education; and
- “Thanks Kentucky Wesleyan College for the valuable education it has provided to students.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “Kentucky Wesleyan College was founded in 1858;
- “Kentucky Wesleyan College is a private, liberal arts Methodist college located in Owensboro, Kentucky;
- “956 students from 27 States and 6 foreign countries were enrolled at Kentucky Wesleyan College in the fall of 2008; and
- “Kentucky Wesleyan College has a number of notable alumni, including a United States Supreme Court justice, a Major League Baseball pitcher, and the founder of another Kentucky institution of higher education.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 837 was introduced on October 15, 2009, and referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor, which took no public action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditures.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: A committee reporting citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. However, the resolution does not contain any earmarks.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

RSC Staff Contact: Curtis Rhyne, Curtis.Rhyne@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-8576

H.Res. 660 - Recognizing the distinguished history of the Laurinburg Normal Industrial Institute (*Kissell, D-NC*)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, October 21, 2009, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.Res. 660 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “Recognizes the distinguished history of the Laurinburg Normal Industrial Institute;
- “Acknowledges the Laurinburg Institute's remarkable contribution to the education of African-Americans and other people in the State of North Carolina and the Nation; and
- “Commends the enterprise and dedication of the McDuffie family in creating and sustaining the Laurinburg Institute.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “The Laurinburg Institute is the oldest of only four historically African-American boarding schools still remaining in the United States;
- “The Laurinburg Institute was founded to help provide suitable education and training in the common pursuits of life for African-Americans in the area of Laurinburg, North Carolina; and
- “On September 15, 1906, Emmanuel McDuffie, J.H. Davis, and Robert Leach incorporated the Laurinburg Institute at Laurinburg, North Carolina, for the

instruction of African-American teachers and youth in various academic branches of study and in the best methods of theoretical and practical industry applicable to agriculture and the mechanical arts.”

Additional Information: Rep. Kissell has made an appropriations request of \$1 million for the school. His [website](#) states, “Presently, five of the campus’ eleven original buildings are functional and habitable. This has contributed to a precipitous decline in the school's value, and continues to effect enrollment and revenue capacity. Consequently, the Laurinburg Institute does not have the financial capacity to commence the much-needed renovation to restore all eleven buildings.”

The High School Review staff at the [NCAA Eligibility Center](#) issued a “not cleared” decision for the Laurinburg Institute on March 27, 2009. During the 2006-07 and 2007-08 academic years, the Eligibility Center staff reviewed Laurinburg Institute’s curriculum, class schedules, teacher schedules, quality control practices and enrollment figures. The review also included two in-person site visits. The review identified several areas of concern, including quality control and curriculum.

The school was notified of these concerns and was given an opportunity to respond. The written response provided by school officials failed to sufficiently address the irregularities and deficiencies of Laurinburg Institute identified by the Eligibility Center staff.

Committee Action: H.Res. 660 was introduced on July 17, 2009, and referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor, which took no public action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditures.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: A committee reporting citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. However, the resolution does not contain any earmarks.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

RSC Staff Contact: Curtis Rhyne, Curtis.Rhyne@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-8576

H.Res. 836 - Expressing support for Teen Read Week (Roe, R-TN)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, October 21, 2009, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.Res. 836 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “Supports the goals and ideals of Teen Read Week;
- “Recognizes that it is important for teens to be taught to read proficiently; and
- “Encourages teens to read for leisure and academic purposes.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “70 percent of 8th graders and 65 percent of 12th graders do not read at grade level;
- “Available data shows 85 percent of all juvenile offenders have reading problems and approximately one-third of all juvenile offenders read below the fourth-grade level;
- “Teen Read Week encourages teens to read a book for leisure purposes; and
- “October 18 to October 24, 2009, is Teen Read Week.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 836 was introduced on October 15, 2009, and referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor, which took no public action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditures.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: A committee reporting citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. However, the resolution does not contain any earmarks.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

RSC Staff Contact: Curtis Rhyne, Curtis.Rhyne@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-8576

**S. 1818 – Morris K. Udall Scholarship and Excellence in National
Environmental Policy Amendments Act of 2009
(*Sen. Bingaman, D-NM*)**

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, October 21, 2009 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill. A similar bill, H.R. 1035, passed the House of Representatives on July 28, 2009 by voice vote. The Senate passed the same bill, with an amendment, on September 23, 2009, by unanimous consent.

*S. 1818 does *not* include the Travel Promotion Act which was attached as a part of H.R. 1035 when it was considered in the House on October 7, 2009.

Summary: S. 1818 makes administrative changes and amends the title of the Foundation to add the name, “Stewart L. Udall.” The Senate amendment to the bill struck the section in the House-passed bill that would authorize “such sums as may be necessary” to (1) the Trust Fund; and (2) the Environmental Dispute Resolution Fund. The authorization level will stay at \$40 million.

The bill also allows for the use of funds from the Trust Fund “for official reception and representation expenses, as determined by the Board, not to exceed \$5,000 for a fiscal year.”

Additional Background: The Morris K. Udall Foundation was created by Congress in 1992. It operates scholarship, internship, and fellowship programs for areas of study related to the environment and Native American tribal policy and health care. It aims to contribute to public policy in the areas of environmental, energy, and related economic problems.

Stewart L. Udall (D-AZ) was a member of Congress (1955-1961), Secretary of the Interior (1961-1969), environmental lawyer, and author. Morris K. Udall (D-AZ) was a member of Congress from 1961 to 1991. He ran unsuccessfully for President in 1976. Stewart L. Udall was his brother.

Committee Action: On October 20, 2009, the bill was introduced in the Senate. It then passed on the same day by unanimous consent.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy is provided.

Cost to Taxpayers: A CBO cost estimate for S. 1818 is not provided.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: Though the bill contains no earmarks, and there is no accompanying committee report, the earmarks rule (House Rule XXI, Clause 9(a)) does not apply, by definition, to legislation considered under suspension of the rules.

Constitutional Authority: No explanation of constitutional authority is available.

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S.Con.Res. 43 - Authorizing the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for the presentation of the Congressional Gold Medal to former Senator Edward Brooke (Sen. McConnell, R-KY)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, October 21, 2009, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: S.Con.Res. 43 resolves that the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring):

- “The rotunda of the United States Capitol is authorized to be used on October 28, 2009, for the presentation of the Congressional Gold Medal to former Senator Edward Brooke. Physical preparations for the conduct of the ceremony shall be carried out in accordance with such conditions as may be prescribed by the Architect of the Capitol.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “Edward William Brooke III was the first African American elected by popular vote to the United States Senate and served with distinction for 2 terms from January 3, 1967, to January 3, 1979;
- “On March 29, 2007, the United States Senate passed S. 682, sponsored by the late Senator Edward M. Kennedy with 68 co-sponsors, by unanimous consent, to award Senator Brooke the Congressional Gold Medal;
- “On June 10, 2008, the House passed S. 682 under suspension of the rules by voice vote and a similar measure, H.R. 1000 was introduced in the House by Representative Eleanor Holmes Norton with 286 co-sponsors; and
- “The President signed the bill on July 1, 2008, and it became Public Law 110-260.”

Committee Action: S.Con.Res 43 was introduced in the Senate on October 1, 2009, and passed the Senate without amendment by unanimous consent. This resolution was referred to the House Committee on Administration, on October 6, 2009, which took no public action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditures.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: A committee reporting citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. However, the resolution does not contain any earmarks.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

RSC Staff Contact: Curtis Rhyne, Curtis.Rhyne@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-8576

H.Res. 823 - Expressing deep condolences to the families, friends, and colleagues of those killed and injured in the attack on the United Nations World Food Program office in Islamabad, Pakistan, on October 5, 2009, and support for the WFP's mission to bring emergency food aid to the most vulnerable people of Pakistan and around the world.
(DeLauro, D-CT)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, October 21, 2009, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.Res. 823 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “Expresses its deep condolences to the families, friends, and colleagues of those killed and injured in the attack on the United Nations World Food Program (WFP) office in Islamabad, Pakistan, on October 5, 2009;
- “Recognizes the critical role the WFP plays in helping alleviate poverty, which can be exploited by extremists to create instability, in Pakistan and the greater South Asian region;
- “Reaffirms its support for the WFP's mission to bring emergency food aid to the most vulnerable people of Pakistan and around the world; and
- “Commends the approximately 10,000 people of the WFP directly serving the hungry and poor across the world for their invaluable contribution to bringing relief to those most in need.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “The United Nations World Food Program (WFP) was established in 1962 with the goal of providing every man, woman, and child with access at all times to the food needed for an active and healthy life;

- “Since 1968, the WFP has invested more than \$1,500,000,000 in assistance to the most food-insecure people in Pakistan, including those in remote areas and those affected by conflict;
- “On October 5, 2009, a suicide bomber attacked the WFP office in Islamabad, Pakistan, killing five employees, Botan Ahmed Ali Al-Hayawi, Farzana Barkat, Abid Rehman, Gulrukh Tahir, and Mohamed Wahab; and
- “Support for food aid and other forms of humanitarian assistance in Pakistan is in the moral and national security interests of the United States.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 823 was introduced on October 13, 2009, and referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, which took no public action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditures.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: A committee reporting citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. However, the resolution does not contain any earmarks.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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**H.Res. 761 - Remembering and commemorating the lives and work of
the Jesuit Fathers on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of their
deaths at the University of Central America Jose Simeon Canas located
in San Salvador, El Salvador on November 16, 1989
(McGovern, D-MA)**

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, October 21, 2009, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.Res. 761 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “Remembers and commemorates the lives and work of Father Ignacio Ellacuria, Ignacio Martin-Baro, Segundo Montes, Amando Lopez, Juan Ramon Moreno, Joaquin Lopez y Lopez, Julia Elba Ramos, and Celina Mariset Ramos;

- “Extends sympathy to the families, friends, colleagues and religious communities of the six Jesuit priests and two laywomen;
- “Recognizes the continuing academic, spiritual and social contributions of the University of Central America Jose Simeon Can. AE6as (UCA) in San Salvador, El Salvador;
- “Commends the 28 Jesuit colleges and universities in the United States for their solidarity with the UCA and annual remembrances of the Jesuit martyrs;
- “Continues to find inspiration in the lives and work of the Jesuit martyrs;
- “Remembers the seminal reports by Chairman John Joseph Moakley and the Speaker's Special Task Force on El Salvador in investigating the murders of the six priests and two laywomen;
- “Acknowledges the role played by the Speaker's Special Task Force, Congressman John Joseph Moakley, the Jesuit leadership of the UCA, and the Salvadoran judicial investigation and convictions in advancing negotiations to end the war so that the deaths of the Jesuit martyrs and two laywomen contributed directly to achieving the peace to which they had dedicated their lives;
- “Calls upon the people of the United States, academic institutions and religious congregations to participate in local, national and international events commemorating the 20th anniversary of the martyrdom of the six Jesuit priests and two laywomen;
- “Recognizes that while significant progress has been made during the post-war period, social and economic hardships persist among many sectors of Salvadoran society; and
- “Calls upon the President, the Secretary of State, the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, and other United States' Federal departments and agencies to support and collaborate with the Government of El Salvador and other public, private, nongovernmental and religious organizations in efforts to reduce poverty and hunger and to promote educational opportunity, human rights, the rule of law and social equity for the people of El Salvador.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “In the early morning hours of November 16, 1989, six Jesuit priests and faculty members of the Universidad Centroamericana Jose Simeon Can. AE6as (UCA) located in San Salvador, El Salvador--Father Ignacio Ellacuria, Ignacio Martin-Baro, Segundo Montes, Amando Lopez, Juan Ramon Moreno, and Joaquin Lopez y Lopez--and housekeeper Julia Elba Ramos and her daughter, Celina Mariset Ramos, were executed by members of the Salvadoran Army;
- “On September 28, 1991, a Salvadoran jury found guilty of these murders two Salvadoran military officers, including Salvadoran Army Colonel Guillermo Alfredo Benavides Moreno, the first time in Salvadoran history where high-ranking military officers were convicted in a Salvadoran court of law of human rights crimes;
- “The University of Central America Jose Simeon Can. AE6as in San Salvador remains dedicated to advancing and expanding educational opportunity, providing

- the highest quality of academic excellence in its studies and courses, and the commitment to human rights and social justice;
- “The international and Salvadoran outcry in response to the deaths of the six Jesuits and two women and the subsequent investigations into this crime served as a catalyst for negotiations and contributed to the signing of the 1992 Peace Accords, which have allowed the Government and the people of El Salvador to achieve significant progress in creating and strengthening democratic political, economic and social institutions; and
 - “November 16, 2009, marks the 20th anniversary of the deaths of these eight spiritual, courageous and generous priests, educators and laywomen.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 761 was introduced on September 22, 2009, and referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, which took no public action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditures.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: A committee reporting citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. However, the resolution does not contain any earmarks.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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H.Res. 672 - Calling on the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to release imprisoned bloggers and respect Internet freedom. (Sanchez, D-CA)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, October 21, 2009, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.Res 672 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “Supports the right of Vietnamese citizens to access websites of their choosing and to have the freedom to share and publish information over the Internet;
- “Calls on the Government of Vietnam to repeal Circular 07, Article 88, and similar statutes that restrict the Internet, so as to be in line with the International

- Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which the Socialist Republic of Vietnam is a signatory;
- “Calls on the Government of Vietnam to become a responsible member state of the international community by respecting individuals' freedom of speech, freedom of press, and freedom of political association; and
 - “Calls on the Government of Vietnam to release all political prisoners, including but not limited to the following bloggers and cyber activists--
 - (A) Le Cong Dinh;
 - (B) Le Nguyen Sang;
 - (C) Le Thi Cong Nhan;
 - (D) Nguyen Van Hai (Dieu Cay);
 - (E) Nguyen Xuan Nghia;
 - (F) Ngo Quynh;
 - (G) Nguyen Ngoc Quang;
 - (H) Nguyen Thi Hong;
 - (I) Nguyen Van Dai;
 - (J) Pham Ba Hai;
 - (K) Pham Thanh Nghien;
 - (L) Pham Van Troi;
 - (M) Tran Huynh Duy Thuc;
 - (N) Truong Minh Duc;
 - (O) Truong Quoc Huy;
 - (P) Vu Hoang Hai;
 - (Q) Nguyen Tien Trung; and
 - (R) Vu Hung.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “The Internet is a medium to share information freely, promote social and economic development, and connect Vietnamese citizens domestically and internationally;
- “The Government of Vietnam created the Administration Agency for Radio, Television and Electronics Information in October 2008 and issued Circular 07 in December 2008 to restrict Internet freedom, censor private blogs, and compel information technology companies to cooperate with government efforts to monitor personal information of Internet users;
- “The Government of Vietnam continues to firewall external websites promoting democracy and human rights; and
- “These actions violate individuals' right to freedom of speech and expression.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 672 was introduced on July 23, 2009, and referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, which took no public action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditures.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: A committee reporting citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. However, the resolution does not contain any earmarks.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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H.Res. 175 - Condemning the Government of Iran for its state-sponsored persecution of its Baha'i minority and its continued violation of the International Covenants on Human Rights (Kirk, R-IL)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, October 21, 2009, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.Res. 175 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “Condemns the Government of Iran for its state-sponsored persecution of its Baha'i minority and its continued violation of the International Covenants on Human Rights;
- “Calls on the Government of Iran to immediately release the seven leaders and all other prisoners held solely on account of their religion, including: Mrs. Fariba Kamalabadi, Mr. Jamaloddin Khanjani, Mr. Afif Naeimi, Mr. Saeid Rezaie, Mr. Behrouz Tavakkoli, Mrs. Mahvash Sabet, Mr. Vahid Tizfahm, Ms. Raha Sabet, Mr. Sasan Taqva, and Ms. Haleh Roohi; and
- “Calls on the President and Secretary of State, in cooperation with the international community, to immediately condemn Iran's continued violation of human rights and demand the immediate release of prisoners held solely on account of their religion, including Mrs. Fariba Kamalabadi, Mr. Jamaloddin Khanjani, Mr. Afif Naeimi, Mr. Saeid Rezaie, Mr. Behrouz Tavakkoli, Mrs. Mahvash Sabet, Mr. Vahid Tizfahm, Ms. Raha Sabet, Mr. Sasan Taqva, and Ms. Haleh Roohi.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “In 1982, 1984, 1988, 1990, 1992, 1994, 1996, 2000, 2006, and 2008, Congress declared that it deplored the religious persecution by the Government of Iran of the Baha'i community and would hold the Government of Iran responsible for

- upholding the rights of all Iranian nationals, including members of the Baha'i faith;
- “In November 2007, the Iranian Ministry of Information in Shiraz jailed Baha'is Ms. Raha Sabet, 33; Mr. Sasan Taqva, 32; and Ms. Haleh Roohi, 29; for educating underprivileged children and gave them 4-year prison terms, which they are serving;
 - “On January 23, 2008, the United States Department of State released a statement urging the Iranian regime to release all individuals held without due process and a fair trial, including the 3 young Baha'is being held in an Iranian Ministry of Intelligence detention center in Shiraz;
 - “In March and May of 2008, Iranian intelligence officials in Mashhad and Tehran arrested and imprisoned Mrs. Fariba Kamalabadi, Mr. Jamaloddin Khanjani, Mr. Afif Naeimi, Mr. Saeid Rezaie, Mr. Behrouz Tavakkoli, Mrs. Mahvash Sabet, and Mr. Vahid Tizfahm, the members of the coordinating group for the Baha'i community in Iran; and
 - “The Government of Iran is party to the International Covenants on Human Rights.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 175 was introduced on February 13, 2009, and referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, which took no public action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditures.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: A committee reporting citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. However, the resolution does not contain any earmarks.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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